HISTORY OF THE ASTORIA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

BACKGROUND

The Articles of Incorporation were signed in 1923, the land was acquired also in 1923, the clubhouse in the spring of 1924 and the formal opening day of golf play occurred with a tournament on June 12, 1924. During that era golfing in this area was very active. The Gearhart Golf Course had been opened in 1909 and the Seaside Golf Course in 1923. Many of the men from Astoria were very active in both the Seaside and Gearhart Golf Clubs with Charles Halderman winning the Gearhart Club championship on May 16, 1923.

It was with a spirit of community competition that led to a group of men getting together to form the Astoria Golf and Country Club. The original wooden clubhouse was remodeled several times and the then newly remodeled clubhouse burned to the ground during the morning hours of Saturday, June 1, 1968. The one hundred and sixty-eight members used a mobile home on the site of the upper putting green as a clubhouse until dedication of the present clubhouse on April 11, 1970.

Our first indication of interest in the development of a golf course is a letter written to Charles W. Halderman from Nelson Troyer in Seattle, dated June 15, 1923 but refers to an earlier visit of July 1922 of Mr. Halderman to Seattle. The by-laws of the Rainier Golf Club formed in Seattle in 1919 were used as guide lines for the Astoria group. Mr. Charles Halderman, who was then Postmaster of Astoria, was the spearhead of the organization. The first open meeting is recorded as an item in the Astoria Evening Budget of Friday, June 1, 1923 entitled "Country Club is Launched For Astoria". The founders were listed as J.E. Roman, A.C. Fulton and C.W. Halderman. Eighty to one hundred members were expected. The first organizational meeting was held on Thursday, July 7, 1923 at the Court House at which time officers and trustees were elected. By this date one hundred and ten members had already been listed and seventy-five of those attended the first meeting. Nine trustees were elected from the entire membership and these included G. C. Patton, J.E. Roman, C.W. Sanborn, C.W. Halderman, G.W. Utzinger, R. R. Bartlett, R.D. Pineo, Norton Nelson and E. M. Cherry. At a meeting of these trustees, C. W.Halderman was named as president and G.W. Utzinger as secretary. The following committees were appointed:

By-Laws: F.C. Hesse, G.C. Fulton, E. M. Cherry
Finances: J.E. Roman, G.W. Utzinger and F. M. Sweet.

Mr. R. R. Bartlett, manager of the Port of Astoria, an architect, volunteered to draw the plans for the clubhouse without charge. The election for trustees or board members was so close that the ninth position had to be decided by a flip of a coin between E. M. Cherry, A. W. Norblad and E.G. Gearhart.

The following names were placed on the club membership list as of July 7,1923:

E. G. Gearhart
W. R. Fellman
Morton Nelson
G. A. Erickson
J. A. Roman
C.W. Halderman
G.C.Fulton
A. C. Fulton
James W. Mott
James L. Hope

W. A. Tyler
F. H. Vincel
Frank Hesse
A. W. Norblad
E. D. Gray
M. H. Callender
G P. Hungarman
Frank Woodfield
S. S. Sovey
D. E. Laugaseo
Dan A. West
O.A. Wirkkala
W. P. Tuerk
B. F. Stone
B. B. Claghorn
Lewis Schearer
A. A. Finch
L.C. McLeaod
George H. Ohler
L. D. Drake
M. R. Chessman
J. T. Allen
E. M. Cherry
George Walters
Fred Barker
J.S. Dellinger
C. B. Allen
W. C. Tremblay
John Tate
O. A. Kratz
H.E Cherry
Roy Salisbury
E. P. Parker
Frank Franciskovich
Peter Cosovich
A. L. Brown
C. L. Rogers
A. V. Allen, Jr.
C. T. Diamond
Arthur A. Anderson
E. R. Waffle
L. R. Andrews
Frank Patton
O. L. Peterson
W. P. O'Brien
C H. Callendar
Martin Shaet, Portland
S E. Gordon
R. J. Pilkington

S A. Wright
Leo J. Malarkey
C. V. Brown
T. P. Haller
E. J. Nyman
E. A. Higgins
Frank H. Sanborn
Guy O. Sanborn
J. M. S. Hawthorne
O. A. Owen
C. A. Smith
C. A. Burlingame
F. H. Haradon
B. H. Stone
G W. Sanborn
R. R. Bartlett
C.W. Robinson
W. A. Eigner
B. P. Baily
J. E. Wicks
C. J. Palmberg
F. M. Sweet
J. H. Shaner
Harry F. Gordon
W. A. Sherman
F. O. Berg
F. C. Wilson
E. G. Hughes
J. J. Pittenger
William Silvo
W. A. Viggers
S. S. Gordon
Leo A. Furney
A. G. Allen
F. B. Dunbar
Charles Rohaut
J. H. Cellars
S. W. Lovell
J R. Clinton
G. W. Utzinger
J. R. Prouty
W. E. Tallant
J. C. Clinton
A. Osborn
Edwin C. Judge
A Van Dusen
H. N. Jacobson, Westport
W. F. McGregor
Lloyd Van Dusen

The second membership meeting was held on Thursday, July 5th at the Circuit Courtroom in Astoria at which time a resolution was adopted limiting the membership to two hundred with one hundred and thirty members having been signed by that date.

On July 25, 1923 immediately after the stockholders' meeting where a majority of the Board of Directors of the Astoria Golf and Country Club were present the following individuals applied and received a unanimous vote to membership:

Dr. J. A. Tuttle
F. J. Durham
C. H. Davis, Jr.
J. C. Butler
Dr. E. Nelson Neulen
Mark Siddall
Dr. Toivo Forsstrom
Neil Morfitt.

LAND ACQUISITION

During the second membership meeting on Thursday, July 5, 1923 four sites for the golf course and clubhouse were considered with all areas including about one hundred and eighty acres. These areas included the Wigglesworth tract near Morrison Station, the Harold Tagg tract, the Ed Taylor and Poole property and the West tract, all on Clatsop Plains. All of these sites were to be reviewed by the membership on Sunday, July 8, 1923.

Following the reviewing of the various properties, the concensus of the membership was that the Taylor tract was the most suitable for the needs of the club as there was a road leading to the property, water had been piped in and there was a residence which would form the nucleus for a clubhouse.

On July 10, 1923 C. W. Halderman had obtained an option to purchase the Glenwood Cranberry Company tract of forty acres and land immediately adjacent to the forty acres sufficient to make an additional ten acres at $110.00 an acre. Also on July 10, 1923 an option was obtained from E. A. Taylor to sell to C. W. Halderman all the lands owned by him and the James Taylor land claim together with the right, title, interest and estate of E. A. Taylor in and to the water known as Neacoxie Lake for $8500.00, $2500.00 in cash and a $6000.00 promissory note, the cash being due on or before August 1, 1923 and a promissory note due in five years after August 1, 1923. The payment of the principal and interest was to be secured by first mortgage on the property and resident buildings which was to be insured for loss by fire at $1200.00 until the note was paid in full. Edward Taylor was given until September 1, 1923 to vacate the dwelling house which stood on the area of the present lower putting green. A barn stood on the ridge, the site of the present clubhouse. The Glenwood Cranberry tract of forty acres was north and immediately adjacent to the Taylor tract and also was to be purchased for $8000.00 with $2500.00 in cash and a $5500.00 promissory note promissory note at six percent per year due in five years after August 1,1923 with payment to be secured by a first mortgage on the premises.

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Astoria Golf and Country Club was held at the office of G. C. and A. C. Fulton on Tuesday, July 24,1923 attended by Mr. Halderman, President, George Sanborn, Roger Pineo, J. E. Roman, Morton Nelson, and G. C. Fulton resulted in a resolution that the president and

secretary were to be authorized and empowered to purchase the title to the lands and premises of the Glenwood Cranberry Company, forty acres, and Taylor tract of seventy acres. On that date also a resolution was adopted that the proposition of Mr. Hurlbult and Mr. Poole to build a line fence between the north and west property lines between the golf links and the Glenwood Cranberry Company. This was to be constructed at one-half the actual cost and expenses allowing each man a reasonable compensation for his services. Mr. Fred B. Poole and F. L. Hurlbult were president and secretary respectively of the Glenwood Cranberry Company.

It is of considerable interest that this area known as Clatsop Plains actually lay in the incorporated town of Clatsop as registered in the deeds of the State of Oregon on October 9,1870. The town of Clatsop in the county of Clatsop was bounded on the north by the Columbia River, on the west by the Pacific Ocean, on the south by a line drawn east from the mouth of the Necanicum River, and on the east by the Skipanon River and the chain of lakes and marshes lying east of Clatsop Plains.

GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT

At a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Astoria Golf and Country Club on Tuesday July 24, 1923 a resolution was offered and adopted that the president and secretary were authorized to employ the services of R. C. (Jack) Astbury, golf architect and engineer, to lay out the golf course on the grounds selected for the club and compensation to be allowed the architect would be a lifetime membership in the club without payment of dues or membership fees together with his actual expenses in laying out the links. Mr. Astbury was said to be a wealthy amateur golfer from Portland, but laid out the golf links with the fairways running east and west, thus across and over the top of the respective sand dunes. This plan was not approved or accepted by President Charles Halderman and subsequently Mr. Halderman and George Junor, the first greenskeeper, laid out the course in its present north and south direction between the sand dunes. The second green originally was beyond the crest of the hill in the hollow by number sixteen green. It was moved to the top of the hill after a lady golfer, Mrs. Diamond, had been hit on the head.

A flag system on a tall pole was used to indicate when players left the second green.

In November 1923 an agreement was signed between the Astoria Golf and Country Club and the City of Warrenton with its water department to furnish a three inch water line with a connection at a point opposite the north half of the Taylor land claim for $20.00 a month, this contract to run for five years from December 1, 1923 to November 30, 1928, the water to be used for the clubhouse and sprinkling of the golf links, but no sprinkling between 5:00 AM and 9:00 PM. The original watering system was for greens and aprons only, but did include a number of drinking fountains located near the sixth green, between the twelfth green and thirteenth tee and near the fifteenth tee.

No fairway sprinkling was done during the summer and thus the fairways were very hard and dry for about three months. The ninth tee was originally where the present ladies' number nine tee is On February 10, 1931 six hundred dollars' worth of steel water pipe was laid to place an new water line from the ninth tee to the twelfth tee. The original course area had a large amount of Scotch Broom lining the sides of the fairways so that number three and number fifteen, for example, were very difficult to play. Cypress trees were planted in large numbers in earlier years, but to the present only six of these survived. In about 1950-52 a Halderman Tree Planting Program was undertaken. Alder trees, first used, died out and subsequently beach pines were used and these became quite hardy and successful.

A fairway watering system using portable pipe was used for approximately ten years until an underground pipe system was installed in 1958 using lake water. This was installed just prior to the 48th Annual Coast Tournament.

In the fall of 1938 new roadways were constructed from the seventh green to the eighth tee; a new winding path from the fourteenth green to the fifteenth tee and a new path from number fifteen green to the sixteenth tee. The men's number nine tee was created and reached via a bridge which later broke, perhaps in 1935 and was replaced by a fill made by Mr. Jens Lerback. This was again revised and the ninth tee built at a higher level in 1947.

On January 12, 1928 N.W. Bowers offered to sell to the Astoria Golf and Country Club his title of Neacoxie Lake (Sunset Lake) from the bridge to the north side of Sunset Beach line for $1000.00. The board did not take action and the offer was filed. During the presidency of Chester W. Laughlin in 1949 fertilizers were first used on number nine and eighteen fairways under the direction of George Harvey.

FINANCES

1923

A special meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the office of G. C and A. C. Fulton in the Astoria Savings Bank building on Friday, July 18th for the purposes of making a loan to the corporation for the sum of $7500.00. The Finance Committee of George W. Sanborn, Frank Patton and G. C. Fulton reported that the Astoria Savings Bank would loan $7500.00 at seven percent interest per year, interest payable quarterly, this note to be secured by mortgage upon the lands and fixtures belonging to the corporation. The promissory note to the Astoria Savings Bank stated that the loan was to be repaid in gold coin of the United States of America at the present standard value of 1923 and that the interest would be also paid in gold coin at the rate of seven percent per year.

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Astoria Golf and Country Club was held at the office of G. C. and A. C. Fulton on Tuesday, July 24,1923 for the purpose of viewing the land purchase options and a resolution was made directing the president and secretary to purchase these lands at the following prices: the Taylor tract at $8000.00, payment to be $2500.00 cash and the balance of $5500.00 by promissory note of the corporation, due on or before five years from August 1, 1923, bearing interest at six percent per year, interest payable semi-annually; the Glenwood Cranberry Company tract for $4400.00 with a cash payment of $2500.00 and the balance of $1900.00 by promissory note due on or before five years from August 1, 1923 at six percent interest per year, interest payable semi-annually.

The initial dues were at five dollars a month and this assessment remained for many years. At the first annual meeting on May 20, 1925 held at the clubhouse twenty-five regular members attended. In November 1925 the club borrowed $6500.00 from the Astoria Savings Bank to improve the road leading from the highway into the gate in front of the clubhouse. In February 1926 a ten-ton roller was purchased from the J. H. Tillman Company for $1000.00, the money borrowed from the Astoria Savings Bank. At the time of the second annual meeting in June 1926 the green fees were posted at two dollars a day. On September 9, 1926 at a board meeting a time plan membership was posted at $75.00 down and $10.00 per month plus monthly dues of five dollars.

In February 1928 renovation of the clubhouse for an extension on the north side to extend additional room for the ladies' locker room was to cost $850.00 and concrete septic tanks were to be built by Rohout &Gearthart, contractors, for $650.00. The club borrowed an additional $1500.00 by note from the Astoria Savings Bank on this date.

In June 1929 the annual meetings were to be deferred until further notice and the main problem was a need to devise a plan to refinance the E. A. Taylor and Astoria Savings Bank mortgages. In September 1929 greens fees were reduced to one dollar a day.

In October 1929 two board meetings were held and a decision made to borrow $16,000.00 from Nelson Troyer of Seattle, a former Astorian, to cover payments to the Astoria Savings Bank and Edward L. Taylor.

In June of 1930 green fees were set at $1.00 per day during the week and $2.00 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays but by November 12, 1930 a special letter was sent to the members advising them of the financial condition of the club and green fees were reduced to fifty cents. Green fees collected in October 1930 were $185.00 and November 1930, $253.50.

In October 1931 the club had approximately $1000.00 left after the payroll was met but by January 1932 only $940.00 cash remained on hand. In spite of this in February 1932 the club purchased $600.00 worth of steel pipe to place a new water line from the ninth tee to the twelfth tee.

At the October 13, 1932 board meeting bills were ordered paid if and when funds were available. In April 1933 delinquent accounts were turned over to Mr. C. H. Burham for a collection at ten percent.

On June 23, 1933 a special meeting was held because the greenskeeper's house and tool shed had burned to the ground but were insured for $2500.00 and would require at least $1500.00 to replace. By September 1933 bids were received by Mr. Wickline for construction of the greenskeeper's house for $1468.00 and for the tool shed at $670.00.

In January 1934 at the board meeting it was decided to take warrants on outstanding accounts so that they could apply onto light bills. In February 1934 the Austin roller was sold to pay a $202.50 interest owed to the Prouty Lumber Company for $92.40

On March 26, 1934 the bank account was moved to the First National Bank of Astoria because of the closure of Patton's Astoria Savings Bank.

At the June 1934 board meeting a decision was made to drop all members who were $50.00 behind in dues.

On February 12, 1936 at the board meeting Charles W. Halderman tendered his resignation as president of the board and Sherman Lovell was nominated as president. Dues were changed and for payment of $4.00 per month plus tax for twenty-four months a certificate of membership would be issued. Mr. Lovell was to contact Nelson Troyer of Seattle about the remaining mortgage of $13,500.00.

At the July 24, 1936 board meeting a letter was received from Nelson Troyer of Seattle to settle the mortgage for $10,000.00. Sherman Lovell proposed that twenty men put up $500.00 each to put up the mortgage. The notes were signed, the mortgage paid and eventually the notes were paid off from slot machines in the club.

CLUBHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

During the fall of 1923 specifications and blueprints were prepared by Mr. R. R. Bartlett, architect and then manager of the Port of Astoria. On November 20, 1923 Mr. Halderman received a letter of inquiry from W. C. Wickline about the proposal to build a clubhouse on the golf course and the opportunity to bid. On January 10, 1923 a letter was sent by Mr. Halderman to Mr. L. L. Paget of Seaside, Oregon, apparently the local contractors' representative, informing him that plans and specifications of the new golf clubhouse were ready at the office of Mr. G. C. Fulton for the opening of bids at 2:00 PM on Thursday, January 14, 1923.

These specifications were for the labor and construction of the clubhouse, material to be furnished by the club. On January 21, 1924 a bid of $2905.67 was received from Mr. William H. Potts. J. W. Fink offered a bid of $2586.00. On January 17, 1924 W. C. Wickline offered a bid to furnish all labor for the construction of the clubhouse $2371.27. R. M. Robeson of Gearhart, Oregon on January 15, 1924 offered a bid of $2500.00 but indicated in his letter that this did not include labor on excavation, electrical wiring, plumbing, heating and painting.

The contract was to include only all labor necessary to construct the building, except as follows:

1. Labor for excavation of the building not included
2. Labor and material for electrical wiring is not included
3. Labor and material for heating and plumbing is not included.
4. Labor and material for painting is not included but does include the labor for installing ~~(for installing)~~ all heavy and finished hardware and all carpenter and masonry work and all other labor in connection with construction and completion of the building including possible cutting to accomodate pipe or heating plant.
5. The small amount of excavation for the laying of special piers or footings that could not readily be done at the time of the general excavation is done, is understood to be in the general labor contract and shall be furnished by the contractor.

The owners are to furnish and deliver convenient to the site at the top of the ridge reasonably close to the building site all material required to properly construct the building. A $200.00 surety bond was required and the inspection to be done by the architect. The contract payment was to be in two installments, one payment shall be made not to exceed eighty-five percent of the labor costs at the time the frame of the building has been erected and closed on the outside and under roof. The last final payment to be made within days after the building has been entirely completed and accepted by the owners.

On January 26, 1924 a contract was signed by the Astoria Golf and Country Club and Mr. W. C. Wickline for construction of the clubhouse for a fee of $2371.27 to be completed by the first day of May 1924. Plans were prepared by Mr. R. R. Bartlett, architect and the contractor agreed to begin construc-

tion ten days from the signing of the contract, the work to be done under the supervision and satisfaction of George Junor who was appointed superintendent of construction. On March 20, 1924 Mr. Bartlett received from Mr. Wickline a letter indicating that the clubhouse was now enclosed and under roof and ready for his inspection prior to the first payment.

At a supplemental cost of $480.00 Mr. Wickline also constructed lockers for the clubhouse and for the golf course, tee boxes and benches.

Inside painting bids and specifications were issued on April 23, 1924. The first bid from Mr. E. J. Hallaux on April 19, 1924 was for $530.00. Mr. A. G. Knight on May 3, 1923 bid $410.00 and on May 5, 1924 Mr. W. A. Larson bid $498.00.

Exterior painting specifications were offered and on March 17, 1924 S. J. Granville bid $208.00. On March 26, E. J. Hallaux bid $238.00. Mr. E. J. Hallaux received both interior and exterior painting contracts. The Astoria Evening Budget on Wednesday, May 7, 1924 reported that the new clubhouse of the Astoria Golf and Country Club would open in June 1924.

At the time of a personal interview with Mr. W. C. Wickline on February 22, 1974 he was found to be eighty-five years of age, spry and alert and in full possession of all faculties and stated with some amazement when shown the original documents and his contract for construction of the club that he "never expected to see these again". Because the club was in a hurry to started on construction, the surety bond that Mr. G C. Fulton had asked for, was forgotten and never enacted.

Mr. Wickline recalls that Mr. Bartlett marked the cornerstone for the building but to his knowledge the ridge top where the clubhouse was erected, was not cut down or altered in shape. Mr. R. R. Bartlett made out all the lumber and hardware list and he recalls that the cement then came in cloth sacks and he got a ten cent rebate on each sack. The electrical contract was by the then Astoria Electric Company owned by Green and Gibson. The plumbing contractor was the Arne Abrahamson Company and he recalled that Mr. Abrahamson was able to obtain a used or second hand furnace from downtown Astoria which worked out very satisfactorily for the club. No blueprints are available to his knowledge at the present time. His crew consisted of a foreman, Mr. Lindblader, who had worked on the construction of the John Jacob Astor Hotel and he had three carpenters, Mr. L. C. Mart, Jack Burgess and a third man at this time unidentified but who subsequently remodeled the Elmore Apartments and built the First Methodist Church in Astoria. In the original construction the lumber came at $20.00 per thousand Board Feet.
He does not recall any difficulties in the construction of the building and remembered that the weather was very good from February to May. A large septic tank, twelve by fifteen feet was installed at the southeast corner of the construction site.

After completion of the clubhouse, he constructed the greenskeeper's house and a later date the machinery shed. In 1933 the greenskeeper's house and tool shed burned to the ground. He rebuilt them in September 1933. Mr. Wickline also recalls playing two rounds of golf with Ted Filbey, the greenskeeper, stating that his best score was on the first round and that he played poorly on the second round.

He stated that his clubs were left-handed and the ball tended to "curve a bit".

The original wooden lockers were replaced by steel lockers in the 1930's which were obtained from Waverley Club in Portland but were quite narrow and generally unsatisfactory.

In October 1925 the board authorized the hiring of a landscape man from Seaside, Mr. George Otten to plant the hillsides by the clubhouse. The roadway from the highway to the gate in front of the house was improved in November of 1925. In February 1928 an addition was built on the north side of the clubhouse for additional rooms and additional space for the ladies' locker rooms. In 1933 the lunch counter was being operated by Mrs. Sites. In 1947 remodeling of the building a second chimney located on the south side of the building was taken down or dismantled and bricks later were used for the chimney which still exits in the workshop building. In the original building there was only lunchroom in the northwest corner and at this first remodeling the ladies' locker room was enlarged and extended to the west and at this time in 1947 was added the dining room with large glass windows overlooking the eighteenth green. Originally a driveway which extended from the lower parking lot to the front of the house as a circular driveway existed as a very steep grade beginning from the level of the present lower practice putting green. This steep grade was altered by a sand fill making a much smoother access to the turnaround during the 1947 remodeling.

In 1951 a major remodeling of the building was undertaken with the addition in the dining room wing, remodeling of the kitchen, a new bar wing and the ladies' locker room remodeled. An addition to the men's locker room was also completed. A port-o-cher protective roof was added over the front door. The new clubhouse remodeling was done by the interior design department of Meier & Frank Company in Portland, Oregon.

GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT

In July 1926 the board gave consideration to filling in the ninth fairway along the lake, and on November 24, 1926 decided to build a bridge across the lake at the men's ninth tee. The board decided on September 14, 1927 to buy a new Toro tractor, sweeper and roller. Mr. George Harvey started the work on September 1, 1927 and later became head greenskeeper and club manager. During the expansion period of 1951 the club purchased a new fairway mower and new greens mower.

MEMBERSHIP

The majority of the first one hundred membership certificates were issued in 1924 with certificate number one hundred issued to Peter Cosovich on January 2, 1926. During the succeeding years membership increase was slow, ten new members were added in 1926 and three in 1927. Of the five new members in 1928, one was the first woman proprietary member, Georgia Ekstrom. Growth was slow with two new members in 1929, three in 1930, five in 1931, six in 1932 and only one in 1933 and three new members in 1934. No new members were recorded in 1935, 1936 and 1937. Apparently a membership drive was held in 1938 bringing forty-four new members. During the war years a considerable lull in membership developed as certificate number one hundred sixty-three was issued on June 30, 1938 and then the next certificate number one hundred sixty-four on June 26, 1946. Certificate number two hundred was issued on September 20, 1946 to G. J. Barbey. In 1946 was started a program of re-issuance of new certificates to original members. When these certificates were re-issued to those who had paid $6.00 a month during the war years, the fee would be $275.00 plus federal tax or $330.00 for membership. Monthly dues were still at $6.00 per month but gradually increased over the next several years to $12.00 per month.

Mr. A W. Grimberg in 1974 recalls that he joined in 1925 but did not receive his certificate until issued in 1934 taking ten years to pay at $6.75 a month of which $3.00 went to membership. This entitled him to a free wooden locker and showers. Frank Berg reminisces in 1974 that "those were the good old days. Knickers, can't remember what kind of shoes, I think tennis, wooden shaft clubs with small heads and lots of fun".

PROFESSIONALS

Greenskeeper: George Junor, who actually helped develop the course layout with Mr. Halderman was the first greenskeeper. He was succeeded by Ted Filbey as a second greenskeeper. Luke Adkins was the third greenskeeper. He was succeeded in 1947 by Mr. George Harvey who in 1952 took on the dual role of club manager and greenskeeper.

Golf professional: The first professional was John Junor who stayed about one year and then went to the Portland Golf Club On August 12, 1925 Mr. H. I. Jones, an Englishman, but working in Medford, Oregon, was hired. He resigned on April 12, 1928. After the resignation of Mr. H. I. Jones, George Beer from the Columbia Edgewater Club of Portland was hired at $100.00 per month. He served only a short time, resigning on October 22, 1928 but for a long time held the course record (66-67). For a time Mr. John Deggs, the pro at Gearhart Golf Club came to Astoria to give lessons. A golf professional by the name of Mr. Harris served for a short time in the early 1930's and subsequently no new pro was engaged until June 22,1936 when Mr. Howard Bonar was hired as the new golf professional. He came from the Torwood Lee, a nine hole golf course in Long Beach, Washington which had been designed by George and John Junor. For a time Mr. Bonar operated a driving range in Astoria which was in two locations, first in the Merwyn Hotel Building and then later in the basement of the present Van Dusen Building. For many years he made the monthly reports, serving as club manager and functioned as the evening bartender. In 1950 when Howard Bonar resigned and moved to Waverley Golf Club in Portland, he was succeeded by Ron Caperna who served from February 1950 to December 1957. Ed Oldfield was the golf professional from March 1958 to December 1960 and was succeeded by Marlo Quick who remained from 1961-1971. Bob Gasper,the present pro, came in 1971. Joe Schneider served as the assistant professional from 1950-1962 working under Caperna, Oldfield and Quick.

During the difficult times of the 1930's when no golf professional was engaged, Carl Stevens, the clubhouse janitor, was appointed on April 8, 1931 to operate the pro shop and sales for a salary of $145.00. On his day off he was replaced by George Harvey from the outside crew.

CADDIES

In earlier years a small shed was erected down near the level of the present upper parking lot as a caddy shed, but subsequently was moved to the road up to the turnaround between the road and the present putting green. After caddies were no longer available, this was used for many years as a storage shed until torn down.

GOLFING

An item in the Astoria Evening Budget, Wednesday, February 13, 1924 stated that Mr. R. R. Bartlett reported to the Rotary Club that construction was in good progress and that "the course is laid out with the greens in good condition and the work on the clubhouse is well underway and soon will be under cover". A newspaper item on Wednesday, May 7, 1924 called attention to the forthcoming opening of the new

clubhouse in June 1924.

The Astoria Evening Budget on its front page on Thursday June 12, 1924 reported "Formal Opening of Golf Club Saturday . The formal opening of the Astoria Golf and Country Club golf course and clubhouse will be held on Saturday, June 14th beginning at 9:00 o'clock in the morning. Members of the club, their ladies and invited friends will participate. Light refreshments will be served and the Bungalow Orchestra will be present during the afternoon and early evening so that dancing as well as golf playing will be included on the program."

Golfing competition was very active from the opening day onward. On June 14, 1924 the recorded first foursome included one of the present surviving charter members, Frank O. Berg, an Astoria druggist. He now lives in Walnut Creek, California and still plays golf. With him were Fred Wilson, a photographer, Gustav Erickson and Ralph Lamb.

The first hole in one was made in June 1924 by Captain Fisher of Fort Stevens.

TOURNAMENTS

The first father-son tournament was played on opening day, June 14th with Mr. A. S. Robinson playing son, Harry and G. C. Fulton playing with son, Dick Fulton.

On June 22, 1924 the club held its first annual ~~capital~~ Kickers handicap tournament. This was played by a score drawn between 70-80 and the number kept secret. Each contestant guessed at this score and chose a handicap for himself and endeavored to obtain the handicap score. Luke Sasnet won with an 89 score, having chosen a 14 handicap and thus played exactly to the chosen secret number of 75. His prize six golf balls.

A Flag Day handicap tournament was held on July 4, 1924, the course par rating was 70 and to this was added the player's handicap. The golfer would plant his flag where his last shot of 70 plus his handicap fell and the player nearest the 18th hole would become the winner. This was won by Lucien (Luke) Sasnet who placed his flag on the lip of the nineteenth hole after holding out an approach on number 18 and then with four strokes left, these were applied to the first extra hole.

The first matched play of the club was held on the second week of July 1924 as the Robinson Trophy matches. Qualifying medal play was 18 holes and then subsequently at match play a full handicap event. The Robinson Trophy would become the property of the three time winner. The championship flight consisted of eight players. On July 14th in the Robinson Trophy matches Peter Cosovich, 26, played Frank Parker, 24, and the match was even after 18 holes, so it was decided by a coin flip, Cosovich won. By July 31, 1924 the men in the championship flight by virtue of medal play had been decided and were:

O. A. Wirkkala	C. W. Halderman	C. C. Fulton
E. S. Prouty	J. H. Cellars	Luke Sasnet
Peter Cosovich	Ted Diamond.	

In the third flight of the A. S. Robinson Trophy match in the finals was Neil Morfitt vs Dr. A. A. Finch. The tournament was completed by August 10, 1924 with O. A. Wirkkala, a 29 handicap won by defeating Ted Robinson, 22 handicap in 37 holes. On this date Dr. A. A. Finch beat Neal Morfitt in the third flight.

Ecletic Tournament: Starting in June 1924 the eclectic tournament was started with counting the best holes score of each 18 holes played and after 18 rounds, the lowest strokes of each hole counted. The tournament ran from June through August 1924.

Interclub: Beginning in 1925 the club initiated inter-club competitions, first with Alderwood of Portland and were actually able to win this first competition with a score of Astoria 38, Alderwood 32. The following points were scored. Cosovich 0, Williams 3, Berg 3, Holman 0, J. Jaeger 0, Sandoz 3. At the time of a return match to Alderwood Astoria was not able to bring its best players and was badly beaten. Subsequently Astoria had inter-club matches with Salem Golf Club, and the Fort Vancouver Barracks.

On June 14, 1925 for the A. S. Robinson Cup handicap tournament the following men were listed in the championship flight:

Lovell 18	Welsh 12
Wirkkala 19	Malarkey 20
O'Brien 18	Palmberg 12
C. V. Robinson 30	Sandoz 22
Lamb 20	A. S. Robinson 22.

In July 1925 the women who were playing for the Pinneo Trophy narrowed the competition to four players, Mrs. F. H. Vincil vs Mrs. S. S. Sovey and Mrs. S. W. Lovell vs Mrs. A. J. Bacon. The ladies were very active in their play and had several of their own trophies with Mrs. Charles Halderman for a long-time head of the women's league. Mrs Frank Halderman, age 80, in 1973 reported that she played in a regular foursome until she stopped playing golf in 1934. Often special garments were worn on ladies' day in the early 1930's.

The Oregon Coast Tournament was initially started as a Gearhart Club tournament in 1910, but was not held in the years of 1918, 1927-30 and 1942-45. In early July 1952 just before the tournament it was suddenly cancelled by its then owner, William Wilcox at Gearhart Golf Club. Through an agreement with the then Astoria president, Graham Barbey and the board of directors, the title and ownership to the name Oregon Coast Tournament was purchased from Mr. Wilcox for $1.00. To preserve the name and ownership papers were filed in all of the courthouses of the Oregon coast counties by Mr. Robert Anderson, attorney.

ORGANIZATIONS

The board approved on April 15, 1926 the joining of the Oregon Golf Association with $25.00 annual dues. However, the minutes of the OGA mention for the first time the Astoria Golf and Country Club on November 26, 1929. On

November 24, 1926 the board of directors moved to join the Northwest Golf Association. Records of the Pacific Northwest Golf Association on February 14, 1974 show that the Astoria Golf and Country Club joined the association in 1938.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

All five surviving charter members, Arne Abrahamson, Frank Berg, Peter Cosovich, Neil Morfitt and Charles L. Rogers were personally interviewed in 1974 and each gave interesting bits of information.

I am grateful to Mr. George Fulton, who donated to the Astoria Golf and Country Club a file of documents not known to have existed, found in the Fulton law office.

Mr. George Harvey, former manager of the club, was most generous in donating his original copy of notes he made of the original board meetings.

Mr. Roy Thompson, present greenskeeper, gave assistance in obtaining documents saved after the fire.

The support of club members and encouragement of Mr. Willard Morris was of great value in the support of this project which is admittedly incomplete, but hopefully can be added to annually.

Jorma M. Leinassar, M.D.
June 1974.

Jorma M. Leinassar MD
June 12, 1974.

"APOLOGIA"

This printing is from the second rough draft of facts, figures and dates of this manuscript. Readers are asked to "forgive" the language as used.

J.M.L.
1974

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